

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 PRS-01

USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-04 SAJ-01 H-03 ACDA-19 DODE-00

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DRAFTED BY:EUR/NE:SGEORGE

APPROVED BY S- MR RUSH, ACTING

EUR:GSSPRINGSTEEN

PM:SWEISS

S/S-MR MILLER

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R 182255Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T STATE 185823

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 2 LINE MISSING)

ZXMO. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, UK

SUBJ: ACTING SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH UK DEFENSE OFFICIAL

1. ACTING SECRETARY RUSH MET SEPTEMBER 13 WITH UK MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENSE GILMOUR. PRINCIPAL TOPIC WAS MBFR. RUSH OUTLINED OUR THINKING ON APPROACH TO BE TAKEN, SAID OUR MBFR GOAL IS TO MAINTAIN STRONG NATO, KEEPING TROOP CUTS AT PROPER LEVEL, AND THAT IT IS QUITE WRONG TO VIEW MBFR AS MERELY COVERUP FOR US WITHDRAWAL. HE SAID WE WERE GLAD SEE RECENT SHIFT IN BRITISH POSITION AND EXPRESSED HOPE US AND UK COULD WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER AS NEGOTIATIONS PROCEED. GILMOUR SAID UK HAD NO DOUBTS OR CONCERNS ABOUT US MOTIVATION, BUT CONTINUED HAVE GENUINE FEARS THAT SOVIETS MIGHT BE ABLE DAMAGE ALLIANCE THROUGH MBFR. HE

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CONFIRMED THAT OUR POSITIONS NOW QUITE CLOSE TOGETHER AND

SAID UK ALSO WISHED STAY IN VERY CLOSE AND CONTINUOUS TOUCH. MAKEUP OF TWO DELEGATIONS AND BACKSTOPPING GROUPS ALSO DISCUSSED, WITH RUSH AGAIN EXPRESSING HOPE FOR CLOSE COOPERATION IN ORDER MAXIMIZE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING POSITIONS.

2. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION EXECUTIVE BRANCH PROBLEMS WITH CONGRESS ON TROOP CUTS, AND RUSH EXPLAINED THAT IN ADDITION TO WELL-KNOWN MANSFIELD EFFORTS, WE HAVE NOW TO DEAL WITH VARIETY OF OTHERS, SUCH AS EVEN MORE DANGEROUS JACKSON-NUNN AMENDMENT APPROACH. FACT THAT SENATOR LIKE JACKSON, HITHERTO VERY SOLID ON NATO, IS GETTING INTO TROOP-CUTS PICTURE ONLY SERVES UNDERSCORE HOW DIFFICULT PROBLEM IT IS, AND HOW IMPORTANT MBFR RESULTS CAN BE. ADMITTEDLY, FIRST-PHASE RESULTS WILL PROBABLY BE TOO SMALL IN THEMSELVES TO STEM TROOP-CUTS TIDE IN CONGRESS, BUT IF IT CAN BE ARGUED THAT THEY ARE FIRST-FRUIT OF ON-GOING PROCESS, OUR CHANCES WILL BE BETTER.

3. ON LATTER POINT, BOTH MEN AGREED ON VITAL IMPORTANCE AGREEING FULLY ON FIRST PHASE BEFORE DOING ANYTHING SPECIFIC ABOUT SECOND, AND RUSH STRESSED HAZARDS INVOLVED IN INDIGENOUS FORCE REDUCTION, SINCE THIS REALLY AMOUNTS TO DISARMAMENT. GILMOUR AGREED, SAYING HMG CONCERN IS THAT WHOLE THING MIGHT TURN INTO STAMPEDE IN DETENTE ATMOSPHERE. RUSH SAID THIS IS BASIC DANGER OF DETENTE AND THAT WE MUST SIMPLY DO OUR BEST COMBAT FEELING OF UNWARRANTED EUPHORIA, SOMETHING VERY DIFFICULT DO IN DEMOCRACIES.

4. THERE WAS BRIEF DISCUSSION OF BOP PROBLEMS, WHICH GILMOUR WAS QUICK TO POINT OUT UK HAS ALSO AND THEREFORE CAN BE OF NO ASSISTANCE TO US. RUSH EXPRESSED HOPE NEVERTHELESS THAT SOME SORT OF MULTILATERAL PROGRAM DEAL WITH US BOP PROBLEM CAN BE WORKED OUT.

5. MEETING CONCLUDED WITH BRIEF EXCHANGE ON US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS IN LIGHT RECENT COPENHAGEN MEETING OF EC FOREIGN MINISTERS. GILMOUR SAID HE THOUGHT CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS

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HAD BEEN MADE TOWARD SHAPING EUROPEAN RESPONSE TO US INITIATIVE. RUSH SAID WE LOOKED FORWARD TO CONTINUING AND DEEPENING THE DIALOGUE, BUT THAT WE HAVE NOT BEEN THINKING OF DEALING WITH EC-NINE AS BLOC AND DO NOT WISH SEE DIALOGUE DEVELOP IN THIS MANNER. US HAS NO OBJECTION TALKING WITH EC CHAIRMAN, CURRENTLY DANE, BUT WE ALSO WISH CONTINUE DEAL BILATERALLY AS WELL WITH EC MEMBER STATES, SINCE THERE IS NOT YET ONE EUROPE WITH WHICH WE CAN DEAL.

GILMOUR AND BRITISH MINISTER SYKES POINTED OUT THAT
CREATION OF ONE EUROPE WILL BE LONG AND TEDIOUS PROCESS,
AND URGED US PATIENCE DURING EUROPEAN GROWING PAINS
PERIOD. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE185823
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/NE:SGEORGE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730926/aaaaaspb.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <24-Jul-2001 by kelleyw0, 3.4.X6>; RELEASED <24-Sep-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <24-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ACTING
TAGS: MARR, UK
To: LONDON NATO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005